

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
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**USTR Statement on the Passing of Senator John H. Chafee**

United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky today issued the following statement regarding the death of Senator John Chafee:

“I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Senator John Chafee. America has lost a leader of conscience and commitment.

“Since 1976, Senator Chafee has tirelessly represented the people of Rhode Island without regard to partisan politics. He has left an indelible mark on health care policy, environmental reform, and international trade policy.

“I am honored to have worked very closely with Senator Chafee on increasing open and fair trade for American workers, consumers and business. A visionary, Senator Chafee worked to forge consensus on important trade issues, and he consistently brought the benefits of trade home to his constituents by supporting important trade initiatives such as the Uruguay Round agreement and NAFTA.

“John Chafee was a true gentleman and statesman. His leadership and wise counsel will be greatly missed. My sincere condolences go out to his wife, Virginia, and their family.”